



See this magnificent house on the Tour of Homes on June 26.

Summer 2011

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

This year at our annual meeting on May 15, we once again held our Board election, recognized our Metro History Fair students and viewed their winning presentation.

Elected to the Board for three-year terms were Jim Maguire who is repeating and Gail Dever, a new member. The current four officers were all reelected for another one-year term. Gail, a trained librarian who volunteers at our Raymond library, brings that experience as well as her abiding interest in the area's history to the Board. Welcome Gail.

We also used this occasion this year to recognize and thank our volunteers and members for their dedication and service to the Society. It's through their efforts and support that the Society has been able to preserve and tell our story these past 43 years. Thank you again to those who attended as well as those who have contributed but could not attend.

Ty Rohrer wrapped up the meeting with a brief presentation on the Civil War and Waukegan's involvement in it. This is the focus of the new exhibit at the museum that opened on April 12th, an exhibit not to be missed. This defining event in our history will also be explored at both our upcoming fall program and the Oakwood Cemetery Walk.

As you are out and about this summer or attending a Bowen Park event, take the opportunity to stop by at the museum to view both the Civil War and the ongoing Ray Bradbury exhibits. I'm sure you will find both interesting and informative.

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Museum Supervisor's Report

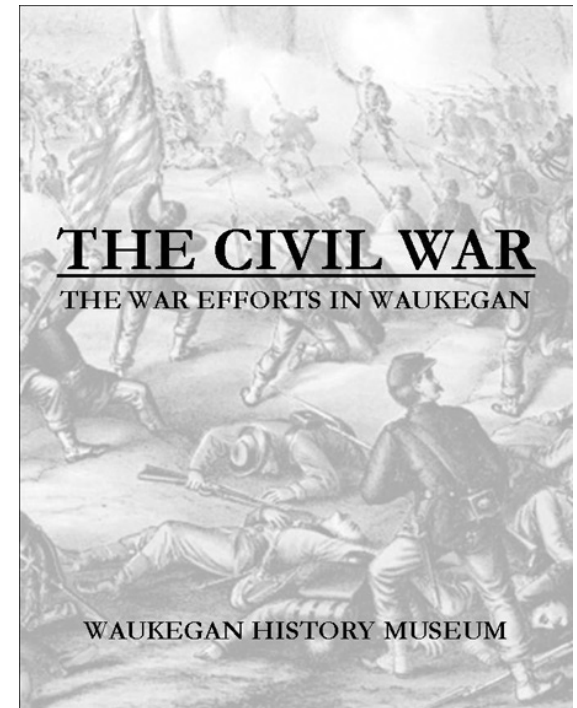
Ty Rohrer

It has been another successful year at the Waukegan History Museum and also with our Outreach Programming. The Museum had over 1,000 visitors and the Outreach Programming continues to be a strong resource. This year a total of 75 programs were presented in classrooms and for adult groups. In total over 2,000 students and 450 adults learned about various aspects of Waukegan's history through our outreach programs!

The summer months are generally the busiest time of the year for museums. Many families enjoy visiting local and national museums while traveling on their vacations. Festivals and programs associated with museums are also more prevalent during the warm summer months. The Waukegan History Museum hopes to welcome many new and old faces into the museum during the summer.

We welcome back Jennifer Berzin as the Museum Intern this summer. Jennifer is studying History at Marquette University. The Museum Intern is graciously provided by the Waukegan Park District.

We are always looking for new volunteers to assist with various projects at the Museum. If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please call or email the Waukegan History Museum.



The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan will be on display through December 10, 2011.

Tour of Homes

Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 26, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Purchase your tickets now at these locations!

Waukegan History Museum
1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
(847)-336-1859

Jack Benny Center
39 Jack Benny Drive
Waukegan, IL 60087
(847)-360-4740

Victorian House Antiques
650 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847)-599-0325

Advance tickets \$12.

The Society's much anticipated annual Waukegan Tour of Homes will take place on Sunday, June 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Tour of Homes showcases the unique architectural styles and distinct neighborhoods of Waukegan.

The homes featured on this year's tour include:
614 N. Genesee Street
918 N. Sheridan Road
434 Center Street
310 Douglas Avenue
And the Waukegan History Museum-1917 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park

Tickets are \$10 in advance for Historical Society Members and \$12 for non-members. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Waukegan History Museum, Jack Benny Center for the Arts (39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park), or Victorian House Antiques (650 Grand Avenue), as well as by mail to: Waukegan Historical Society, 1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60087. If ordering by mail, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be \$15 the day of the tour and may be purchased at any tour site.

This is the Society's main fundraiser for the year and is regularly attended by several hundred people. The Tour of Homes is a self-guided tour that allows participants to go through each carefully chosen home at their own pace. Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to participate in this enjoyable event that showcases Waukegan's finest homes and neighborhoods!

Free History Programs

From the Waukegan Historical Society

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom.

Topics include:

Early Native American History of the Waukegan Area

History of Waukegan (settlement to today)

Jack Benny-From Waukegan to Hollywood

Waukegan and the Underground Railroad

Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys

Abraham Lincoln Goes To Waukegan

Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

"What's in a Name?" (learn about streets, buildings, and parks in Waukegan that have been named for early prominent residents of the city)

Bowen Country Club—The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan

Lake Michigan Shipwrecks

Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry

"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands-on program designed for the classroom)

Program length is 45 minutes to 1 hour. Many programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts. Programs can be given for multiple classrooms on the same day and can be presented to children and adults. Museum staff or volunteers will present the program. These programs reached 2,500 Waukegan students in the 2009-2010 school year.

For more information and to schedule a free program, please call or email the Waukegan Historical Society.

Room Watchers Needed

The Society needs volunteers for room watchers during the Tour of Homes on Sunday, June 26. Room watchers work one shift and then are free to take the Tour during the other shift with a complimentary Tour ticket! Please call the Waukegan History Museum if you would like to volunteer for this wonderful event. First shift is 12:45-3:00pm, and the second shift is from 3:00-5:00pm.

Make the Waukegan History Museum a Destination This Summer!

Stop in for a visit to your local museum this summer to see two wonderful exhibits *The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan* and *Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary*. The museum is fun for both children and adults, and it is always FREE!



Thank You!

New Members

Elna Headberg
Shirley MacSnyder
Josh Bill
Arthur Miller

New Life Members

Martha Sherer

Donations

Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund

ACE Serving you since 1950
Downtown Waukegan
Genesee St. & Grand Ave.
(847) 244-3000
The helpful place.
Your Neighborhood Ace Hardware

Preservation Corner

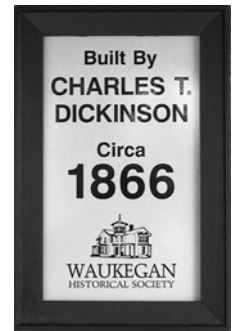
You may have noticed the cream and green colored markers around town on your neighbor's properties. The markers allow the viewer to know about when the property was built and for whom. It's a program used in many historic towns. The Waukegan Historical Society instituted our program in 2006 to identify and mark properties which are of significance due to their architectural or historic value to the community.

The marker program is part of our outreach to the community, making the public more aware of the rich fabric of our many neighborhoods. We are hoping to steadily increase the number of markers as an educational tool in understanding the growth of the City.

If you are interested in pursuing an historical marker for your home or property, please visit the Society's website for more information and an application form. The cost of a marker is \$75 and all profits support the ongoing activities at the Society's Raymond Research Library.

Oral History Project

The Oral History Project's mission is to proactively capture the rich history of Waukegan and its residents. The Oral History Project is gaining momentum with project members preparing to start their practice interviews. New members are always welcome to join this worthy cause. If you would like to assist the group or would like your name to be added to the list of people to be interviewed, please call the Waukegan History Museum or send email to museum@waukeganhistorical.org.



Historically Speaking

When Royalty Reached Waukegan

Ed Link

In his diary Waukegan resident David Simpson wrote of going to the train depot on Tuesday, January 2, 1872 to see Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. The duke's train paused in Waukegan for about ten minutes during his journey from Chicago to Milwaukee. A large crowd gathered to see royalty.

Waukegan was a small part of Alexis' trip to the United States. Royal visits were somewhat rare at that time so when the Grand Duke announced he would like to come and see the U.S., he was welcomed with proverbial open arms. He was the third son of Czar Alexander II, not slated for assuming power in Russia and only 21 years old at the time. There was no pressing reason for the U.S. to curry favor with him. In fact, President Grant reportedly was cool toward him at their Washington meeting. But the rest of the country apparently felt otherwise.

When he arrived in New York City on November 20, 1871, he began a tour of wining and dining in virtually every major city in the east and mid-west. He slowly moved westward, arriving in Chicago on December 30. The great Chicago fire had occurred only a couple of months earlier and much of the city was still in rubble. Rebuilding had begun and the city fathers were anxious to show Alexis and the rest of the world that it would return as a major city, one of the greatest in the world.

He was shown highlights of the city, along with some of the burned out areas. The celebrations surrounding his visit were not hampered by the New Year's holiday, but occasionally the weather. He made a quick trip to Milwaukee on January 2, with the stop in Waukegan, and returned to Chicago on January 4. He left for St. Louis the following day.

Alexis had mentioned his desire to go on a buffalo

hunt when in the country and a spectacular one was arranged for him. His host was Army Lt. Gen. Philip Sheridan, commander of the Division of Missouri, a vast territory extending from Chicago to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to Mexico. Sheridan had been busy maintaining order in Chicago after the fire, but now was free to arrange the hunt. He assembled a group, estimated to total 500 people, including two companies of infantry, two companies of cavalry, a regimental band, 100 Brule Sioux under Chief Spotted Tail, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody as guide. There were copious amounts of champagne and fine food gathered at a camp near present-day Hayes Center in western Nebraska.

Alexis arrived in camp January 13 and, following protocol, was given the opportunity to kill the first buffalo. That took some time and effort given the duke's marksmanship before he finally succeeded while using Cody's rifle. In all he killed eight buffalo during the hunt and celebrated his 22nd birthday while doing so.

After the hunt Alexis went to Denver and had another buffalo excursion. He then toured other cities before leaving for home from Pensacola, FL on February 22.



Grand Duke Alexis

Friendly Family Service Since 1939

Prime Meats • Groceries • Cold Beer/Wine/Sodas

Cribb Fine Foods
(Credit/Link Cards Accepted)

626 Franklin Street • Waukegan Historic District
847.623.0140 Fax 847.623.0142

The advertisement for Cribb Fine Foods is enclosed in a black border. It features the store's name 'Cribb' in a large, elegant script font, with 'Fine Foods' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. A small photograph of the store's exterior is positioned to the right of the name. Below the name, it states '(Credit/Link Cards Accepted)'. At the bottom, the address '626 Franklin Street • Waukegan Historic District' and phone number '847.623.0140' are listed, along with the fax number 'Fax 847.623.0142'. A shopping cart is partially visible in the background of the ad.

Recent Donations

Elizabeth Conrad

Christmas Ornaments

Olga Wigoda

Bottle of Dandelion Wine

Randy Bowcott

Wood Cut Profile of Mayor Sabonjian

Table Topper Cover

Daily Sun Newspapers

Old Home Journals

Victorian Home Magazine

Illinois Preservation Notebooks

Assorted Materials

Martha Sherer

Wedding Dress

Clothes and Hats

Music Rolls

Stereoscope

Piano Roll

WWII Navy Corpsman Uniforms (Henry L. Sherer)

Sea Bags

Bluejacket Manuals

Photographs

Bill Morris

Illinois Senate Chair

Political Buttons

Grain Scale

Bank Advertisement Book

Copy Machine

Kristine Simms

2 Photographs of 1952 Street Scenes

Ann Darrow

2 Photographs of Waukegan Street Scenes

Tom Dever

Sterns Store Business Card

Lindberg Store Sticker

Eamon Rago

Photographs

Model Railroad Cars

Metra Newsletter

Calendar

Michael Keefe

Chicago Daily News-1978

Waukegan Daily Sun-1929

News-Sun-1942, 1953, 1983

Thank you for your recent donations to our Museum and Library collections.

Carol Behm

2 Scrapbooks from Waukegan Women's Club (1996-1999)

Barbara Sexton

WHS Yearbooks (1933 & 1934)

Jo-An Sabonjian

Jack Benny and Waukegan Negatives and Scans

David Wonderland

Waukegan Memorabilia, Documents, Books

Kelly Simmons

Books Standing Still and *Bird House* by Kelly Simmons

Anonymous

Holy Child Yearbooks, Photos, Memorabilia

Contact Us

Waukegan Historical Society

1917 N. Sheridan Road

Waukegan, IL 60087

847-336-1859

info@waukeganhistorical.org

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road

Librarian: Beverly Millard

847-360-4772

library@waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum

in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road

Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer

847-336-1859

museum@waukeganhistorical.org

Hours

John L. Raymond Research Library

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

10am - 2:30pm

Waukegan History Museum

in Bowen Park

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

10am - 4pm

Additional times by appointment.

Visit our website for more information about events, exhibits, and our extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org



Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Mark your calendars for the annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk on Saturday, September 17 from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. This year's theme is The Civil War.